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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,583	01/23/2004	Oded Nahleli	1268-215	3022
22429	7590	05/22/2007	EXAMINER	
LOWE HAUPTMAN BERNER, LLP 1700 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 300 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				FARAH, AHMED M
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3735				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/22/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/762,583	NAHLEILI, ODED	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ahmed M. Farah	3735	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/19/04; 9/13/05.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: the recitation "an endoscope for visualizing the interior cavity of said laser beam" is believed to be a typographical error. In this office Action, the endoscope is treated as a means for visualizing the interior of a body cavity. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kataoka et al. US patent No. 6,129,721.

Kataoka et al. disclose apparatus and method of use for the treatment of hard tissue present in a fluid-filled body cavity (the interior of a periodontal pocket, see col. 13, lines 39-43), the cavity having a diameter of 3 mm or less (see col. 3, lines 56-58 and col. 9, lines 54-58), the method comprising the step of applying to said hard tissue a laser light produced by an Er:YAG laser as presently claimed (see col. 9, line 46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ADKiT publication "Endoscopic Laser Lithotripsy of a Proximal Parotid Duct Calculus," Journal of Otolaryngology, April 30, 2001 in view of Teichman et al. "Erbium: YAG Versus Holmium: YAG Lithotripsy," Journal of Urology, 165: Pages 876-879 (2001). The ADKiT publication discloses a method for removing/treating proximal parotid duct calculus (salivary duct calculi), the method comprising the steps of irradiating to said calculus a laser energy produced by a holmium laser, and viewing the treatment site with an endoscopic/urethoscopic device. However, the publication fails to teach the use of Er:YAG laser, or the structure of the endoscopic device as presently claimed.

Teichman et al. teach a method for testing the efficiency between an Er:YAG and a Ho:YAG laser for lithotripsy (fragmenting calculus or stone). Their test suggested/proved that the Er:YAG laser is more efficient than the holmium laser for lithotripsy. As to the recited endoscope, the applicant admits that the claimed endoscope is one of the commercially available endoscopes by Karl Storz Ltd. (see paragraph [0052] of Pub. No. US 2004/0225283 A1.

Art Unit: 3735

Therefore, at the time of the applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the teachings of the ADKiT publication in view of Teichman et al. and use Er:YAG laser as an equivalent alternative light source to provide the treatment energy. As suggested by Teichman et al., the use of the Er:YAG laser would enhance the efficiency of the treatment. It would have been further obvious to one skilled in the art to use any commercially available endoscope suitable for insertion of small body cavities as claimed, because no advantage of a particular type is disclosed.

Conclusion

TAny inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ahmed M. Farah whose telephone number is (571) 272-4765. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon, Tue, Thur and Fri between 9:30 AM 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marmor II Charles can be reached on (571) 272-4730. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 3735

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ahmed M Farah
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3735



May 12, 2007.